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SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" What about chillies, Sir? They are classified as vegetables."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would rather say, Sir, that chillies contain one vitamin, and that is vitamin 'C', which is not contained in any other vegetable."

District Panchayat Officers.

* 83 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to place on the table—

(*a*) a list of names of those appointed as District Panchayat Officers as from 1st May 1946, their qualifications, their caste or community and the districts to which they belong; and also the dates of their appointments; and

(*b*) a list of names of those appointed as Commissioners of Municipalities in the Province, with dates, their qualifications, their caste or community and the district to which they belong as from 1st May 1946 ?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Local Administration) :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Two statements [a] showing the necessary particulars are placed on the table of the House."

Issue price of salt.

* 84 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the present issue price of salt is in the fish-curing yards of the West Coast and the East Coast;

(*b*) whether the present rate is an enhanced rate and, if so, when the rate was enhanced;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the issue price of salt remained the same from 1924 to 1945;

(*d*) (1) what the reasons are for the enhancement in 1945 and (2) a further enhancement in 1947 and (3) that too only on the West Coast;

(*e*) how does the market price of salt compare with the issue price in the fish-curing yards;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the fish-curing yards on the West Coast have been working at a profit since their inception;

(*g*) whether the Government consider the curing and sale of fish as a part of the " Grow More Food " Campaign?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Rural Development) :—" (*a*) The issue price of salt in the fish-curing yards : In West Coast is Rs. 2–8–0 per maund and in East Coast is Rs. 1–14–0 per maund.

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 374–375 infra.

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" (b) The present rate of Rs. 2–8–0 on the West Coast is an enhancement over the rate of Rs. 1–14–0 fixed in the previous season. This rate came into force from 15th December 1947.

" (c) Yes. Sir.

" (d) (1) to minimize the anticipated loss to Government on account of the working of the fish-curing yards.

(2) The present market price of salt in the West Coast ranges from Rs. 2–4–0 to Rs. 4–4–0 per maund, while the market price of salt in the East Coast varies from Rs. 1–5–2 to Rs. 5–8–9 per maund. The rate was enhanced to mitigate the heavy loss incurred by Government in maintaining the yards.

(3) The estimated consumption of salt during 1947–48 season is 311,000 maunds on the West Coast as against the estimated consumption of 38,666 maunds in the East Coast. The rate has therefore to be increased in the West Coast fish-curing yards as a safeguard against the heavy loss anticipated which is estimated at Rs. 2,71,875 during the current season.

" (e) The market price of salt on the West Coast varies from Rs. 2–4–0 to Rs. 4–4–0 per maund while the issue price of salt has been fixed at Rs. 2–8–0 per maund on the West Coast.

The market price on the East Coast varies from Re. 1–5–2 to Rs. 5–8–9 per maund and the issue price of salt in the East Coast is Rs. 1–14–0 per maund.

" (f) No, Sir.

" (g) Yes, Sir."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Government recognize that the development of fisheries is necessary and that fish is an article of food, why should not Government encourage the curing of fish by giving salt at a cheaper rate? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government can do that only by a subsidy to the industry and not by reducing the price of salt."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that fish is an article of food, is not a subsidy justifiable in these days? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not a question of subsidy. The question raised was whether it should not be treated as subsidiary food. Of course Government will have to consider whether it can be treated as subsidiary food. The price of salt supplied has been debited to the fish-curing yards, which were working at a loss. Nearly two lakhs of rupees have to be made up, and that is why prices were put up. If the question raised refers to subsidiary food, that will have to be considered by the Government."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Was not loss being incurred all these years? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is because they wanted to encourage the curing of fish. That encouragement has brought about greater consumption of salt and there was loss. That is why the loss is being made up by a higher price. If it is a question of treating fish as subsidiary food, food subsidies must be offered to it. The price of salt is not to be reduced."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider fish as food? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I take it that it has been answered."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We consider fish as food, Sir."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Do the Government have appetite for fish? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Government certainly have appetite for all foodstuffs, because we are lacking in food."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not know if the hon. Member means any particular Member of the Government." (Laughter.)

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION OF INDIA—*cont.*

5-45 p.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I must congratulate the Government for their decision to allow this House . . . "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, we have got some urgent Government business—at least I have got—and I may not be able to sit here till the end of the debate. I suggest two things; the debate can go on till 7 or 7-30 or as long as the House wants but if the debate is not over by then and Members want to discuss it further, we will have to adjourn the debate till the next sitting. The other procedure which is open to this House is this. In case Members want to finish the discussion to-day itself, they will have to adjust their time for speeches. But if Members want a full discussion and more time, we may have to adjourn the debate till the next sitting of the Council. Whichever procedure hon. Members may choose, the Government are prepared to adopt."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know when the next sitting of the House will be? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Nobody knows."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It will be some time in June."